73-14

A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PUBLICATION

73-14

Foreign Fisheries Leaflet No. 73-14

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

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NORTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, 1970

International Activities Staff

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June 1973

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North-East Atlantic Fisheries, 1970 [1/]

In 1970, the total catch of fish and shellfish in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) [2/] area had reached 10.3 million metric tons, 42 percent greater than 1962 (table 1). Norway, the leading fishing nation in the North-East Atlantic had more than doubled its catch. Denmark, the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R. also made large gains while Belgium, West Germany and Iceland had substantial declines in their catches. Table 1 also gives a comparison of total catches by NEAFC member countries in all areas as reported by FAO.

Table 1.--Total catches by NEAFC countries in North East Atlantic [1/] and catches in all areas [2/], fish and shellfish, 1962, 1968-70.

(in thousand metric tons)

Country	1962		1968		1969		1970	
	All regions	ICES (North) only	All regions	ICES (North) only	All regions	ICES (North) only	All regions	ICES (North) only
Belgium	59.9	59.9	68.4	68.4	58.7	58.7	53.4	53.4
Canada	1 124.8	–	1 490.3	–	1 408.4	–	1 377.5	–
Denmark	971.9[3)]	821.6[4)]	1 666.9[3)]	1 550.5[4)]	1 490.3[3)]	1 399.6[4)]	1 472.8[3)]	1 399.0[4)]
Finland	68.5	42.2	92.7	72.7	86.8	69.3	82.1	63.5
France	744.3	430.0	793.6	528.4	746.3	518.7	775.2	534.8
Germany Fed. Rep.	632.7	425.4	682.3	387.4	651.6	388.2	612.9	391.3
Iceland	832.6	824.4	600.7	599.8	689.4	675.9	734.1	734.1
Ireland	29.0	29.0	53.1	53.1	66.3	66.3	79.0	79.0
Italy	220.7	–	363.4	–	353.1	–	403.4	–
Netherlands	321.9	331.1	323.3	313.2	323.1	314.6	300.7	298.8
Norway	1 331.7	1 216.7	2 804.1	2 659.5	2 481.0	2 361.3	2 980.2	2 764.3
Poland	179.5	151.6	406.7	232.5	408.1	165.6	489.3	203.7
Portugal	525.6	241.4	506.3	249.6	457.0	234.8	498.4	249.0
Spain	1 075.4	574.4	1 503.1	613.8	1 486.2	633.8	1 496.6	646.8
Sweden	290.9	290.9	315.3	315.3	265.7	265.7	282.7	282.7
United Kingdom	944.3	896.7	1 040.3	970.3	1 083.1	1 053.7	1 099.0	1 070.9
U.S.S.R.	3 616.5	1 134.8	6 082.1	1 413.0	6 498.4	1 465.8	7 252.2	1 561.7
Grand Total	12 970.2	7 450.1	18 792.6	9 947.5	18 553.5	9 672.0	19 669.5	10 333.3

[1)] Catches in freshwater not included. [2)] From FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics (catches in freshwater and shellfish included). [3)] Faroe Islands and Greenland included. [4)] Faroe Islands and East Greenland included.

1/ Compiled by International Activities Staff, National Marine Fisheries Service, from a report by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

2/ NEAFC countries are shown in table 1, NEAFC in carrying out scientific research and investigation seeks the advice of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (Copenhagen).

Fish comprised about 95 percent of the weight of NEAFC catches (table 2). Norway was the leading producer, followed by the U.S.S.R. and Denmark.

Table 2.--Catch of sea fish in North-East Atlantic, 1962, 1965-70
(in metric tons)

	1962	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Belgium	58 077	57 741	60 298	61 363	66 176	55 848	50 307
Denmark	749 474	801 431	809 822	1 029 019	1 424 231	1 239 257	1 189 271
Faroe Islands	44 227	63 231	84 882	93 127	102 456	135 935	181 634
Finland	42 176	57 656	53 680	55 998	72 681	69 284	63 534
France	405 519	450 225	398 975	362 723	415 437	423 923	449 563
Germany, Fed. Rep.	390 498	402 737	405 578	380 341	341 187	350 640	341 135
Greenland[a]	903	887	881	753	630	627	501
Iceland	821 242	1 185 005	1 228 433	890 961	594 860	668 760	723 110
Ireland	24 993	31 396	34 316	45 537	45 592	58 604	68 683
Netherlands	186 569	223 813	216 482	196 077	186 422	195 218	200 731
Norway	1 195 200	2 139 042	2 754 627	3 104 370	2 649 349	2 351 981	2 753 825
Poland	151 604	199 235	200 757	154 120	152 530	165 573	203 657
Portugal	236 055	300 589	256 459	271 876	233 992	220 918	240 270
Spain	461 383	539 787	486 151	484 103	465 921	467 520	467 068
Sweden	292 800[b]	368 200[b]	318 400[b]	339 700[b]	311 980	262 866	279 254
U.K. (England & Wales)	579 003	525 708	510 453	508 682	551 771	606 986	570 569
U.K. (Northern Ireland)	7 069[c]	9 042[c]	7 094	8 926	8 252	7 415	10 055
U.K. (Scotland)	280 646	405 342	437 521	362 947	368 520	388 787	433 825
USSR	1 134 844	1 042 309	1 143 358	1 114 439	1 412 999	1 465 824	1 561 734
Total	7 062 282	8 803 376	9 408 167	9 465 062	9 404 986	9 135 906	9 788 726

a) From 1962 only East Greenland (XIV).
b) Figures from 1962-1967 have been revised.
c) Eel and salmon not included in 1962-65.

Spain was the leading shellfish producer in NEAFC, followed by the Netherlands. The French shellfish industry has fluctuated widely in recent years but now ranks third among NEAFC members (table 3).

Table 3.--Catch of shellfish (including other invertebrates) in North-East Atlantic, 1962, 1966-70.
(in metric tons)

	1962	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Belgium	1 857	2 137	2 281	2 510	2 220	2 820	3 069
Denmark	27 014	27 171	25 842	24 158	23 186	23 784	27 542
Faroe Islands	39	49	43	36	23	23	25
Finland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	24 477	16 528	122 058	27 885	113 001	94 797	85 230
Germany, Fed. Rep.	34 875	39 501	52 527	39 143	46 193	37 524	50 174
Greenland[a]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iceland	3 174	4 760	5 257	4 239	4 940	7 190	10 968
Ireland	3 966	4 206	5 206	4 917	7 466	7 738	10 295
Netherlands	124 493	139 317	120 517	103 576	126 807	119 352	98 076
Norway	21 489	22 865	12 786	13 597	10 104	9 352	10 487
Poland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal	5 331	7 193	5 866	10 690	15 601	13 874	8 689
Spain	113 047	141 236	132 476	130 722	147 910	166 249	179 776
Sweden	7 260	5 267	2 351	3 377	3 362	2 855	3 417
U.K. (England & Wales)	19 752	16 867	21 247	28 085	25 338	28 738	30 369
U.K. (Northern Ireland)	974	1 230	1 638	2 323	2 166	2 920	3 437
U.K. (Scotland)	9 301	9 763	11 269	11 738	14 281	18 812	22 600
USSR	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	397 049	438 090	521 364	406 996	542 598	536 028	544 154

a) From 1962 only East Greenland (XIV).

Throughout the 1960's, five countries consistently took approximately 70 percent of the volume of the North-East Atlantic catch. In 1970, these five--Norway, the U.S.S.R., Denmark, Iceland, and the United Kingdom took 73.9 percent of the catch.

Table 4.--Percentage of the total catch taken by each country

	1962	1967	1968	1969	1970
	in percent				
Denmark	10.7	10.9	15.1	13.6	12.1
Iceland	11.7	9.4	6.3	7.3	7.4
Norway	17.0	32.8	28.2	25.7	28.1
U.S.S.R.	16.2	11.9	15.0	16.0	16.0
United Kingdom	12.3	9.3	9.9	11.0	10.3
Others	32.1	25.7	25.5	26.4	26.1

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Area

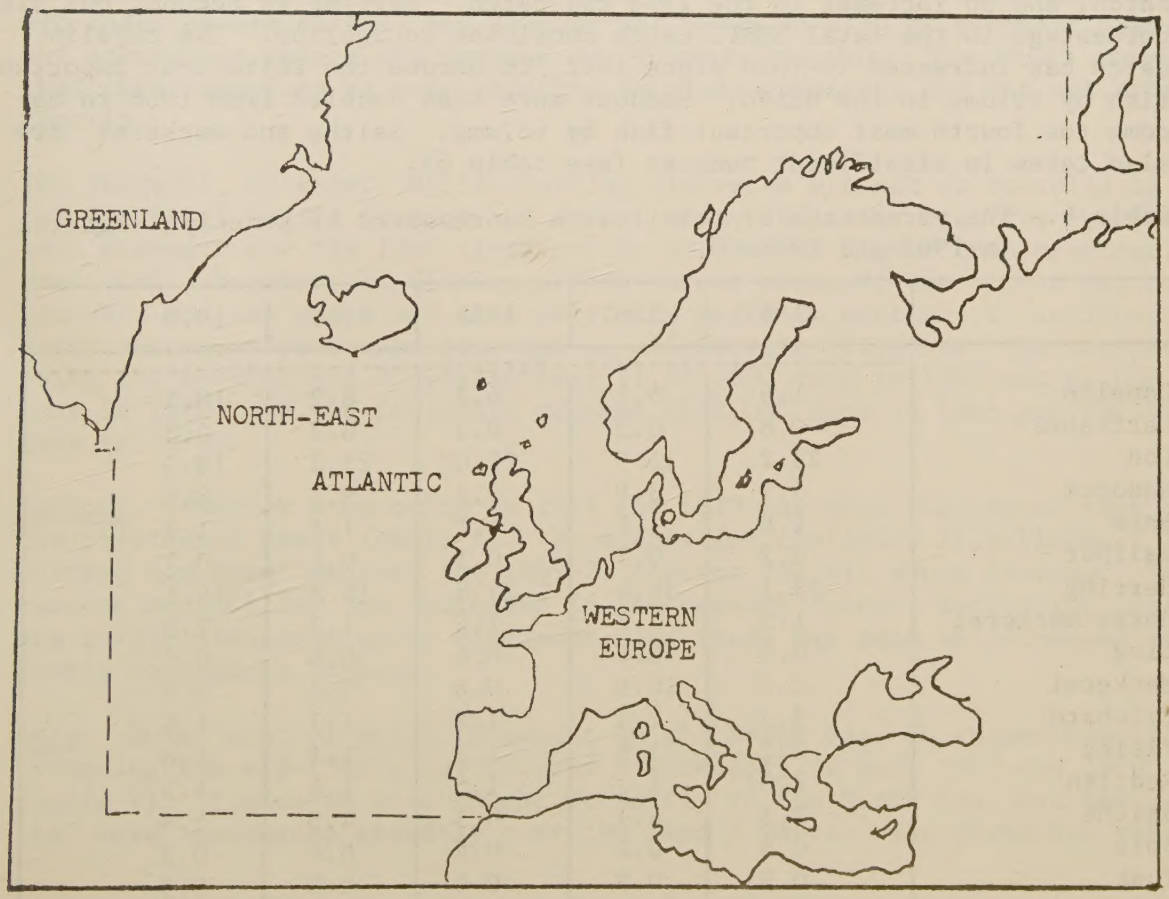


Table 5.--Landings from the most important fishing areas in 1962 and 1969-70.

Area	1962		1969		1970	
	Met. tons	Percent	Met. tons	Percent	Met. tons	Percent
Baltic	398	5.6	582	6.4	617	6.3
Barents Sea	823	11.7	1,319	14.4	1,532	15.7
Bay of Biscay	388	5.5	409	4.5	405	4.1
Iceland	1,365	19.4	936	10.3	998	10.2
Kattegat-Skagerak	252	3.6	235	2.6	220	2.3
North Sea	1,570	22.3	3,237	35.4	3,173	32.4
NW. Scotland N. Ireland	132	1.9	245	2.7	280	2.9
Norwegian Sea	939	13.3	829	9.1	1,045	10.7
Portuguese waters	410	5.8	347	3.8	372	3.8
S. Coast Ireland	95	1.3	153	1.7	224	2.3
Spitzbergen-Bear Island	248	3.5	414	4.5	531	5.4

In 1962, herring was the most important fish caught in NEAFC. However, cod has become the number one fish, following a sharp drop in the 1968 herring catch, and an increase in the 1968 cod catch. Herring is second, but its percentage in the total NEAFC catch continues to decline. The capelin catch has increased 10-fold since 1962, to become the third most important fish by volume in the NEAFC. Haddock more than doubled from 1968 to become the fourth most important fish by volume. Saithe and mackerel are also taken in significant numbers (see table 6).

Table 6.--The percentage of total catch represented by principal species in 1962 and 1967-70.

	1962	1967	1968	1969	1970
	Percent				
Capelin	1.5	5.1	6.2	8.2	10.2
Catfishes	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Cod	23.2	15.9	22.0	23.2	19.5
Haddock	5.7	3.9	4.2	9.7	8.8
Hake	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2
Halibut 1/	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Herring	33.1	34.4	24.8	15.3	14.5
Horse mackerel	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.7	2.5
Ling	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
Mackerel	2.2	10.9	9.6	9.1	4.8
Pilchard	3.3	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.4
Plaice	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.8
Redfish	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.3
Saithe	3.3	4.1	3.5	4.5	5.9
Sole	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Tusk	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Whiting	2.2	2.0	2.4	3.0	2.3

1/ U.S.S.R. not included.

Of the most important species taken in 1969 and 1970, only capelin and saithe increased in percentage in 1970 over 1969. The others--cod, herring, haddock, and mackerel--decreased. Both herring and mackerel have shown consistent declines over the past several years.

Cod. The cod catch in the NEAFC area declined in 1970 (1,911,000 metric tons) for the first time since 1966 (1,389,000 metric tons) (table 7). The 1969 catch was 2,123,000 tons. Despite the small 1966 catch and the decline in 1970, the 5-year average for 1966-70 was higher than any of the previous 5-year averages back since 1950.

In the Northeast Arctic cod fishery, the 1971 catch was 617,000 tons, a decrease from the 876,000 tons caught in 1970. Estimates for the 1972 and 1973 campaigns are 425,000 tons and 380,000 tons, respectively. The 1970 and 1971 cod classes are considered to be strong, but the Barents Sea fishery will suffer until 1974-75 when these classes will contribute significantly to the catch. The spawning stock will be very small indeed by the mid-1970's, thus raising the attendant risks of continuing poor recruitment.

Herring. Although herring had the highest average volume among NEAFC fisheries over the last 5 years, the herring catch has decreased sharply since 1966 (table 7). The average was lower than either of the previous two 5-year periods. The 1969 and 1970 catches were less than half of the 1966 and 1967 catches. Herring stocks in the Northeast Arctic fisheries are under severe strain, and have as yet shown no sign of recovery despite the attempt to reduce the harvest of immature herring. The NEAFC recommended that this reduction be made relative to class strength, and not set arbitrarily.

The Skagerak, Kattegat, Baltic herring fisheries are not as troubled as the Northeast Arctic fishery. A recent study indicates that the recruitment strength for the 1969 class may be 50 percent higher than previously predicted. However, if fishing effort is not reduced, the stocks may not recover, and the catch and size of stocks may both continue to decline. Catch decreases have been recorded in all herring fisheries, the sharpest being the Barents and Norwegian Seas (1,548,000 tons in 1967 and 62,000 tons in 1970) and the Icelandic grounds (483,000 tons in 1966 and 16,000 tons in 1970).

Haddock. Haddock production in 1969 and 1970 was more than twice that of the previous 2 years (table 7). Prospects for continued large haddock catches are good, because the 1969-71 classes are all above average. Two reasons account for the increases in the haddock catch: Recruiting classes are larger than originally estimated, and there has been an increased emphasis on haddock fishing.

Sole. Sole, most of which is caught in the North Sea, increased significantly during the mid-1960's but dropped off sharply in both 1969 and 1970 (table 7). Plaice is also caught primarily in the North Sea, but has, unlike sole, increased steadily over the last 5 years. The North Sea catch

has increased from 96,000 tons in 1965 to 129,000 tons in 1970. Most of the increase is due to Dutch fishing. The Dutch have increased their plaice effort, and have switched from otter trawling to beam trawling with modern, more efficient beam trawls. A decline has been predicted for the 1974 plaice catch to about 90,000 to 100,000 tons, roughly equivalent to the 1960-1965 levels. Long term prospects for both plaice and sole also show some discouragement. Beam trawling results in the catching of many undersized plaice and sole which are discarded; however, tests show that the chances for survival among discarded undersized fish are not good. Thus, recruitment could suffer.

Hake. The hake catch has been relatively consistent in recent years. (see table 7). The annual totals for 1966 through 1970 all lie between 101,000 tons and 117,000 tons. There has been a slacking off from the early 1960s, when the average catch was 129,000 tons, to the latest 5-year average of 110,000 tons.

Capelin. The capelin catch has increased rapidly since 1962. That year, 112,000 tons of capelin were taken. In 1970, the total had reached 1.5 million tons. Almost half of the capelin catch in 1970 came from the Barents Sea. Most of the remainder was caught in the Icelandic grounds, the Norwegian Sea, and in the Spitzbergen-Bear Island area. Of the 1.5 million tons of capelin taken in 1970, 1.3 million tons were caught by Norwegian fishermen for the meal and oil industry. Iceland took 192,000 tons, and the U.S.S.R. 13,000 tons.

Table 7.--Catch of selected species, by fishing area, 1951-70.

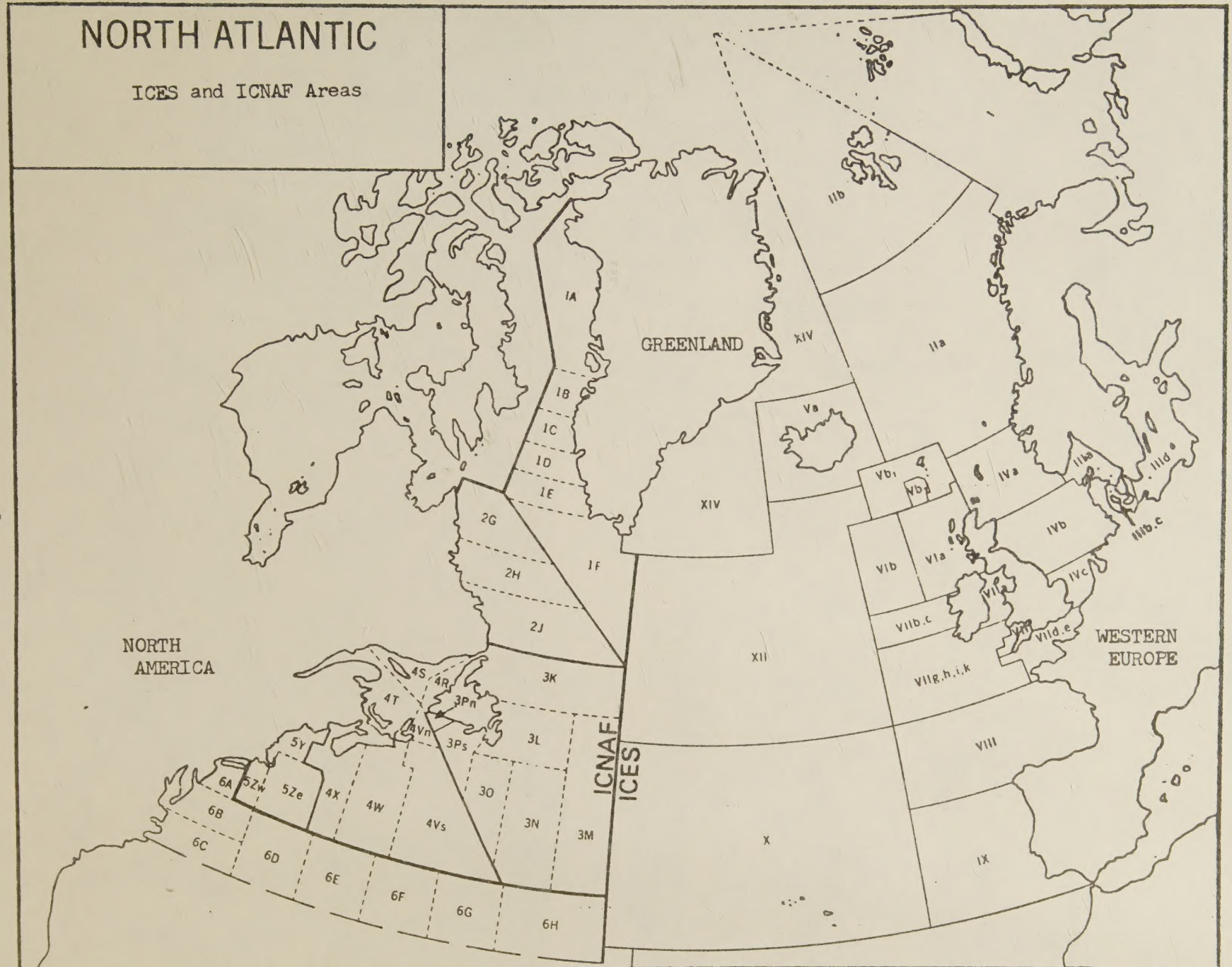
Species / Fishing Areas		Mean Catch in Five Year Periods[1] ('000 metric tons)			Catch Per Year ('000 metric tons)				
		1951–55	1956–60	1961–65	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
	Capelin								
I	Barents Sea	...	...	73	280	317	480	403	728
IIb	Spitzbergen-Bear Island				0	0	0	141	326
IIa	Norwegian Sea	...	...	26	109	91	57	136	260
Va	Iceland Grounds	...	...	12	125	97	78	170	192
	Total – All fishing areas	...	...	112	514	506	616	850	1 506
	Plaice (European)								
IIId, b, c, a	Baltic, The Sound and Belt Sea, Kattegat and Skagerak	12	12	26	13	18	17	19	19
IVc, b, a	North Sea	69	74	97	100	101	109	122	130
	Total – All fishing areas	99	113	154	144	156	161	170	175
	Sole (Common)								
IVc, b, a	North Sea	17	14	21	32	34	29	28	20
	Total – All fishing areas	23	22	30	41	42	41	36	30
	Cod								
IIId, b, c, a	Baltic, The Sound and Belt Sea, Kattegat and Skagerak	88[2]	186	154	174	189	202	192	190
IVc, b, a	North Sea	78	98	121	220	250	285	199	225
I	Barents Sea				265	297	598	612	438
IIb	Spitzbergen-Bear Island	888[3]	936	693	55	114	263	231	125
IIa	Norwegian Sea				238	208	241	381	381
Va	Iceland Grounds	463	473	397	358	344	379	405	471
	Total – All fishing areas	1 584	1 773	1 425	1 389	1 502	2 065	2 123	1 911
	Haddock								
IVc, b, a	North Sea	65	88	120	269	167	139	639	672
I, IIb, a	Barents Sea, Spitzbergen-Bear Island and Norwegian Sea	89	97	125	130	95	156	147	85
Va	Iceland Grounds	56	72	106	60	60	51	47	44
	Total – All fishing areas	246	311	408	521	366	390	889	865
	Hake								
	Total – All fishing areas	121	111	129	107	117	107	101	117
	Norway pout								
IVc, b, a	North Sea	...	...	100	53	180	469	135	274
IIa	Norwegian Sea	...	...	...	8	0	0	18	16
	Total – All fishing areas	...	...	118	73	198	494	170	309
	Saithe								
IVc, b, a	North Sea	28	45	41	87	73	97	106	170
IIa	Norwegian Sea	91	106	128	192	167	94	120	206
Va	Iceland Grounds	71	56	54	52	76	78	116	113
	Total – All fishing areas	224	260	290	399	385	333	416	578
	Whiting								
IVc, b, a	North Sea	69	74	90	155	91	145	199	182
	Total – All fishing areas	110	138	172	227	185	225	277	227

[1]) From 1951 – 1965 Total: East Greenland not included. [2]) Not including catches by U.S.S.R. and Poland. [3]) Including catches by U.S.S.R. and Poland extracted from the North-East Arctic Fisheries Working Group Report. Coop. Res. Rep., Series A No. 16, 1970.

Table 7.--Catch of selected species, by fishing area, 1951-70 (continued)

Species / Fishing Areas		Mean Catch in Five Year Periods[1] ('000 metric tons)			Catch Per Year ('000 metric tons)				
		1951–55	1956–60	1961–65	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
	Redfish								
I, IIb, a	Barents Sea, Spitzbergen-Bear Island and Norwegian Sea	...	89	50	35	24	18	30	29
Va	Iceland Grounds	...	86	89	107	95	96	87	78
XIV	East Greenland	...	...	...	23	33	23	30	18
	Total – All fishing areas	...	181	145	168	156	144	149	127
	Sandeels								
IVc, b, a	North Sea	—	—	123	161	189	194	113	191
	Total – All fishing areas	—	—	137	181	210	201	115	195
	Horse mackerel								
	Total – All fishing areas	90	86	116	103	117	143	152	249
	Herring								
IIId, b, c, a	Baltic, The Sound and Belt Sea, Kattegat and Skagerak	...	311	382	385	512	605	389	360
IVc, b, a	North Sea	...	982	867	1 039	819	850	725	749
I, IIa	Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea	...	907	801	1 520	1 548	650	62	62
Va	Iceland Grounds	...	176	574	483	118	31	24	16
	Total – All fishing areas	...	2 523	2 735	3 610	3 253	2 334	1 399	1 420
	Pilchard								
	Total – All fishing areas	161	217	242	218	201	167	152	138
	Sprat								
IIId, b, c, a	Baltic, The Sound and Belt Sea, Kattegat and Skagerak	34[2]	46	74	75	68	79	115	152
IVc, b, a	North Sea	18	22	56	107	69	65	65	51
	Total – All fishing areas	55	71	133	189	143	155	195	224
	Mackerel								
IVc, b, a	North Sea	45	65	88	505	909	809	714	290
	Total – All fishing areas	103	142	183	622	1 028	905	834	470
	Picked dogfish								
	Total – All fishing areas	...	...	37	27	28	35	36	33

See previous page for footnotes.


NORTH ATLANTIC
ICES and ICNAF Areas
GREENLAND
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